

Examiner Farahani D.
Response Page 2

Unit 2814
USSN 09/747,209

representative by phone.

35 USC 103 Rejections

In section 2 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-22 and 24-37 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu (US Patent No. 5,869,873) in view of Dobkin (US Patent No. 4,153,909). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As mentioned in the last response, the combination of Yu and Doblin does not disclose, suggest, or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by claim 1 of the present application:

"a first doping region having a first conductivity type, electrically floated on said well region"; and

"wherein said first doping area, when the electrostatic discharge current is greater than a predetermined current, reduces the potential difference between said node and said reference potential."

At the paragraph bridging pages 5-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "Node 36 of Dobkin is not coupled to any node, at least in the figure. Therefore, it is a floating node." This statement is clearly wrong. Apparently Dobkin's figures are only simplified circuit diagrams and do not show all circuits that are intended to be there. For example, in Fig. 11, the AND gate has three input nodes a, b and c and an out node 14. Fig. 10 shows three input terminals (a), (b) and (c) of the respective gating transistors 25-25". The figures do not show any circuit connected to these nodes. However, for persons skilled in the art or any one who has some basic knowledge about electrical circuits, it will be appreciated that these nodes

Examiner Farahani D.
Response

Page 3

Unit 2814
USSN 09/747,209

are not floated, but are connected to some circuits omitted from the drawings.

Similarly, node 36 in Fig. 12 of Dobkin is certainly coupled to a node to receive a voltage V+ because (i) the circuit would not work at all if the node 36 is floated; (ii) the "V+" sign next to the numeral 36 in Fig. 12 clearly indicates that node 36 is connected to a positive potential V+; and (iii) col. 5, lines 45-49 states that "a load resistor 36 is provided between the source of positive potential and the emitter 13 of the gated transistor 22." Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the Examiner is clearly wrong in asserting that node 36 of Dobkin is a floating node.

Due to the reasons stated above, the Applicant believes that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Similarly, independent claim 11 recites, in part, "a first doping region having a first conductivity type, electrically floated on said collector region" and "wherein said first doping region, when said electrostatic discharge current is greater than a predetermined current, reduces the potential difference between said node and said reference potential." Independent claim 17 recites, in part, "a first doping region having a first conductivity type, electrically floated on said well region", "a second doping region having said second conductivity type, electrically floated on said base", and "wherein said first doping region, when said electrostatic discharge current is greater than a predetermined current, reduces the potential difference between said node and said reference potential." Independent claim 34 recites, in part, "a second doping region having a second conductivity type, electrically floated in said collector region", and "wherein said first doping region, when said electrostatic discharge current is greater than a predetermined current, reduces the

Examiner Farahani D.
Response

Page 4

Unit 2814
USSN 09/747,209

potential difference between said node and said reference potential." These claims are patentable for the same reason as claim 1.

Claims 2-10, 12-16, 18-22, 24-33, and 35-37 are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency from the above-mentioned independent claims.

The Applicant has attempted to address all of the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action as the Applicant understands them. The Applicant believes that the Application is now in condition for allowance. If any point requires further explanation, the Examiner is invited to telephone Troy Cai at (323) 934-2300 or e-mail Troy Cai at tcai@ladasperry.com.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account No. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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Examiner Farahani D.
Response

Page 5

Unit 2814

USSN 09/747,209

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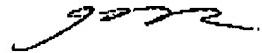
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(Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative)

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Respectfully submitted,


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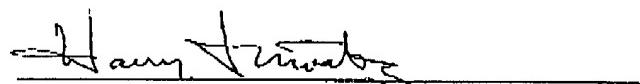
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